June 2015 Volume 3, Issue 6

Green Matters

DPW Environmental and Natural Resources

Fort Gordon, Ga.

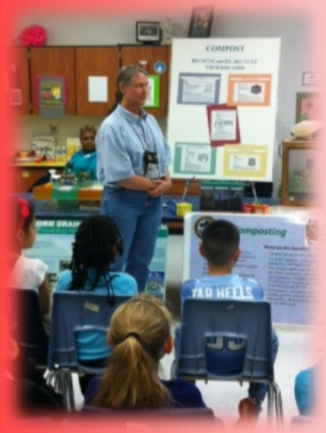
Earth Day Events

DPW Environmental and Natural Resources Division celebrated Earth Day April 22 at Wilkerson Lake (pond). The purpose of celebrating Earth Day is to encourage habits (such as recycling, going green, etc) that will help sustain our natural resources and to encourage others be better stewards of our environment.

The Compliance Branch, along with the Natural Resources Division, had various displays set up for the public's viewing. The recycling division was also present educating military and civilians on the recycling program at Fort Gordon.

The Compliance Branch presented material on composting, storm water pollution and careers in the science field.

Natural resources also had the snakes that are commonly found on post to view.



The following week they went to Freedom Park Elementary school on post . It was apart of the STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) . The kids were able to see up close and personal the snake exhibits and also learn about game management and the benefits of hunting.. The enviroscape exhibit gave the kids a great visual of what happens during storm water pollution and how storm water makes its way to creeks, streams, and rivers and eventually into the groundwater. A composting display allowed children to see the rate of decay of certain organic materials and how they can compost at home.

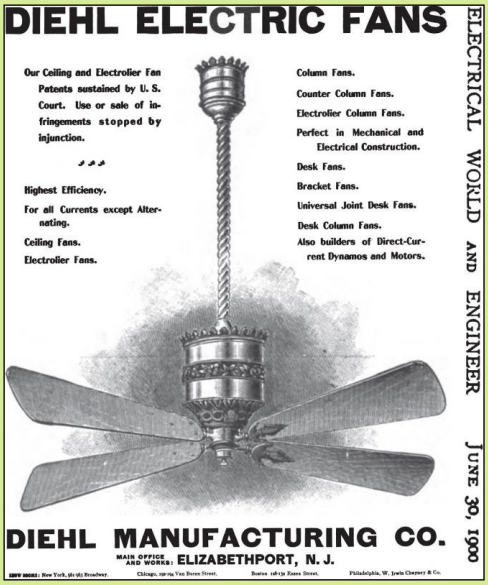
Inside this issue:

Upcoming Training and Events

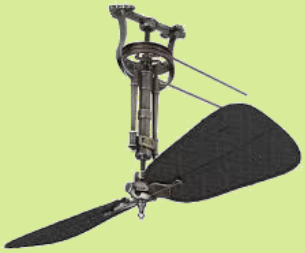
- June 16 AEPA Pre Brief (ED Staff only) 1300-1430, Bldg 14600 Conf Rm
- June 17-26 Annual Environmental Performance Assessment, All day installation wide
- June 18 Stormwater Industrial Training, 0900-1300, Bldg 11307
- July 15 Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945, Bldg 11307

"Cool" facts about Ceiling Fans

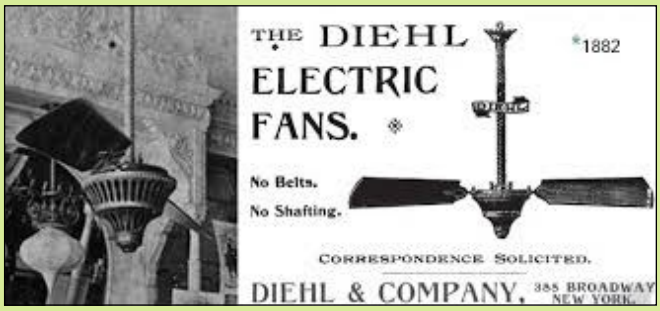
Did you know that ceiling fans have been around for over 100 years helping us stay cool? In 1882, Phillip Diehl, a "contemporary" of Thomas Edison, invented the electrically powered ceiling fan. He had also engineered the electric motor for the Singer sewing machine, and used the same motor for the ceiling fan and attached four paddle blades to it. Later he improved the fan by adding lights to it.



Before electricity powered ceiling fans, they were powered by running water in the 1860s and 1870s in America. The power of the falling water would turn a turbine that was attached to rods and shafts attached to belts which would turn the blades of the fan unit. Today these fans occupy more than 75% of all homes in the U.S.



When used properly they can aid in keeping cooler in the summer time and lowering your cooling costs. Now of course ceiling fans don't provide refrigerated cooling like air conditioners. Instead they circulate the cool air in the room and as the cool air passed over your body, it evaporates the moisture from your skin making you feel cooler, thus creating a wind chill effect. It is important to remember that your ceiling fan should be spinning counter clockwise during the summer in order to push the air down. Using your ceiling fans like this it enables you to set your thermostat 3-5 degrees higher. Ceiling fans consume way less energy than heat pumps, so you save more by using them. But remember, always turn the fans off when a room is not occupied.



Benefits of Backyard Birds

One of my favorite past times is sitting in my backyard and listening to all the joyful sounds that the birds make. These feathered friends bring life to the outdoors, they give nature a voice. The chirps, tweets, and coos sing the song of nature. Although they provide us with such sweet melodies, they also contribute more to our backyard ecosystems than we may realize.

1. **Pest Control**- Birds' diet consist of insects- insects that can be a pest to us. Mosquitoes, spiders, aphids, and more are apart of their entrée. By attracting birds to your backyard, you reduce and/or eliminate certain pest and the need for insecticides.
2. **Pollinators**– Birds such as hummingbirds, orioles, and others sip nectar from plants and serve as pollinators as they make their rounds at lunchtime.
3. **Weed Control**-Birds love seeds, especially weed seeds. Finches, towhees, and sparrows feast on these seeds thus reducing the weed pollination in your backyard.
4. **Environmental Conservation**-Birds love native plants. Native plants use less water and resist diseases more making it better for the local ecosystem.
5. **Education**– It's a great way to educate yourself about the different species of birds, their behaviors, migration patterns, nesting, seasonal plumage change and courtship behavior. Plus it's a great way to get children involved and making it fun to learn.
6. **Stress relief**- It really is good therapy to sit in nature and watch the wildlife interact in their habitat.

Tips For Attracting Backyard Birds

* Learn what your local /regional birds are. Invest in a field guide for birds.
* Feed them. Put various feeders in your yard with seeds, fruits, nuts, scraps, etc.
* Fresh water. Maintain bird baths for them to drink from and bathe in. Misters, ponds, streams, and waterfalls also attract birds.
* Have a landscape that is bird friendly that offers food and shelter. Having evergreens (trees and shrubs) for the winter months for nesting is ideal.

What's in Your Pool?

Compliance Concerns

Sanitizing swimming pools ensures healthy conditions that prevent the transfer of infectious diseases and keeps the water looking nice and clear. There are certain methods used to ensure properly sanitized pools: filtration, swimmer hygiene, adding the proper amounts of chemicals to the pool, and routine water testing .Organizations such as the World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Swimming Pool Foundation and Association of Pool & Spa Professional provide standards and information on pool sanitation. Do you know what lurks in your own backyard pool?

Introduction of Contaminants and Disease

Contaminants and disease are introduced from people and the environment itself. Wind can blow dirt and debris into pools, bird droppings possibly containing diseases, polluted water, and rain containing algae spores. Swimmers who might be infected are also carriers of micro organisms . Body oils such as sweat, cosmetics, suntan lotion, urine, saliva and fecal matter are also contaminants.

Examples of Common Pathogens

RWIs or recreational water illnesses occur from pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and fungi. Diarrhea is the most known illness associated with pathogen contaminants. Other illnesses include swimmers ear, skin rashes, and respiratory infections. According to the Environmental Science and Technology journal urine and sweat react with chlorine and produce trichloramine and cyanogen chloride which is hazardous to humans.

Prevention of:

The first step is having an efficient filtration system. Anything that can be filtered out reduces the impact on the disinfection system.
Proper hygiene plays an important part in keeping your pool safe. Shower before and after entering the pool. Don't allow any sick individuals with an intestinal disorder to enter the pool.

Disinfection is key to maintaining a healthy swimming environment and prevention of diseases. Having the proper amount of chemicals in a pool is important in keeping pathogens away. The amount of chemicals has to be balanced or side effects such as the eye and skin irritation, cloudy water, and damage to the pool could be the result. Dumping the chemicals in the water is not enough. You have to regularly test the water quality to ensure the balance of chemicals is right.

The most common disinfecting agent used in pools is chlorine. It is available as a solid (calcium hypochlorite) or liquid (sodium hypochlorite). Once chlorine reacts with the water it kills bacteria and other pathogens. A stable ph plays an important role in a pools chemical balance. An ideal ph for your pool in 7.4, the ph of human tears.

For more information visit https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/EnvHealthPoolsChapter511-3-5.pdf

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Sources

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http://home.howstuffworks.com/swimming-pool5.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swimming_pool_sanitation

More Earth Day Photos